

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 5, 2004. Claims 1-23 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1-23, 17-19, 21 and 22 were rejected, and Claims 8-16, 20 and 23 were objected to. In order to advance and expedite the prosecution of the present Application, Applicant amends Claims 1, 17 and 21. Thus, Claims 1-23 remain pending in the Application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

In the Office Action, the following actions were taken or matters were raised:

SECTION 102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-7, 17-19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,296,939 issued to Suzuki. (hereinafter *Suzuki*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Of the rejected claims, Claims 1, 17 and 21 are independent. Applicant respectfully submits that *Suzuki* does not disclose or even suggest each and every limitation as recited by amended independent Claims 1, 17 and 21. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that *Suzuki* does not disclose or even suggest “determining a document type based on the preview scan image” and “mapping the document type to a predetermined workflow for post-scan processing” as recited by amended Claim 1, “an automated scan workflow module operable to determine a document type based on the preview scan image” and “map the document type to a predetermined workflow for post-scan processing” as recited by amended Claims 17 and 21.

In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to column 7, lines 29-49 of *Suzuki* (Office Action, page 2), which appears to disclose a determining unit for determining whether a document is a color document or a black/white document during a prescan operation and processing the scan accordingly (*Suzuki*, column 7, lines 29-41). Thus, *Suzuki* apparently uses the prescan information of the determining unit of *Suzuki* for performing the main

scanning operation (“The signal from the determining unit 15 is used in the main scan” (*Suzuki*, column 7, lines 36-37)), in contrast to using the preview scan to map the document type to a predetermined workflow “for post-scan processing” as recited by amended independent Claims 1, 17 and 21. Therefore, for at least this reason, *Suzuki* does not anticipate amended Claims 1, 17 and 21.

Claims 2-7, 18-19 and 22 that depend respectively from independent Claims 1, 17 and 21 are also not anticipated by *Suzuki* at least because they incorporate the limitations of respective Claims 1, 17 and 21 and also add additional elements that further distinguish *Suzuki*. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 2-7, 18-19 and 22 be withdrawn.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS/ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 8-16, 20 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that Claims 8-16, 20 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8-16, 20 and 23 depend respectively from independent Claims 1, 17 and 21 and, as discussed above, independent Claims 1, 17 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Claims 8-16, 20 and 23 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection of Claims 8-16, 20 and 23 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

No fee is believed due with this response. If, however, Applicant has overlooked the need for any fee due with this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this Response to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company.

Respectfully submitted,

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